



Dear Leesburg Resident,

I am relieved that the Governor is allowing Loudoun to reopen its economy on Friday, May 29th. A month ago, I personally requested that the Governor reopen the economy without any more delay. Two weeks ago, I joined with my colleagues, Supervisors Tony Buffington and Caleb Kershner, to more formally request that the Governor allow Leesburg and Western Loudoun to reopen our economies. Too many of my constituents desperately need a paycheck, because the jobs they do cannot be done from their homes and we are stuck with an inadequate federal response to get funds into Americans' hands and to ensure we have adequate tests and medical supplies.

The only way to end the spread of COVID-19 is with a vaccine and that, in the best case scenario, is 12-18 months away, if one is ever developed. We have been spreading out the impact of the virus over a longer period of time so that hospitals are not overwhelmed; but we are not preventing the virus from reaching people eventually, as we've seen from the increasing number of infections months into this shutdown. Some medical experts have said that the worst time for the virus to reach our vulnerable elderly is during the fall and winter flu season. We cannot keep the county, state or country shut down until there is a vaccine and the shutdown is not preventing the spread of the virus. But the shutdown is destroying many thousands of Loudoun residents' livelihoods.

This is what I have been seeing:

1. Virginia, including Loudoun County, had been shut down for six weeks when, at both the state and county levels, we started seeing our highest daily increases of COVID-19 at the end of April and beginning of May. Those increases have continued throughout the shutdown. If the shutdown had been able to eradicate viral spread, we would have expected a peak two weeks into the shutdown with declining figures thereafter. Meanwhile, the shutdown has not protected our vulnerable elderly from viral spread in nursing homes and retired communities. This is due to a failure at the federal level. The federal government should have focused all along on better protecting those in nursing homes and other vulnerable communities by getting them the kind of protective equipment they needed. To this day, in-home caregivers still don't have what they need to protect their patients and themselves.

2. Based on New York's experience, a shutdown appears to be of limited utility in preventing spread. According to Governor Cuomo, in his interview with Stephen Colbert a month ago, 66% of the new COVID-19 cases in New York are among those who have been obeying the stay-at-home rules.
3. The economic burden imposed by the shutdown on those who need to work in order to get paid is devastating. Many of my constituents have lost all their income and have no way of getting any income until the economy reopens. Even then, some economists say 40% of the jobs lost in this shutdown may never come back. The longer the county, state and country are shut down, the less likely these jobs will return. Loudoun is among the best-positioned counties to weather a financial disaster, but even here, we anticipate an unemployment increase in Loudoun County from 2.6% to 10% and the permanent loss of 25% of our businesses, if the shutdown continues. This is worse than what we saw in the great recession.

Phase 1 Reopening

Earlier this week, Governor Northam stated that all of Virginia will operate under Phase 1 of the "[Forward Virginia](#)" blueprint starting Friday, including Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Accomack County. Decisions to move to Phase 2 will depend on trends from the established metrics.

Our regional Health Directors informed officials that Northern Virginia has met four of the six threshold metrics needed to transition to the first phase of reopening. Those include having enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity and having a downward trend of positive tests and hospitalizations over a period of 14 days. The region still has not met two important metrics:

- It does not have an increasing and sustainable supply of PPE, and
- It has not sufficiently increased contact tracing capacity.

Regional Health Directors are suggesting refinements and additions be made to the public health metrics necessary for moving into subsequent phases of reopening.

The Mayors and Chairs of the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William, the Cities of Alexandria and Fairfax, and the Towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Middleburg and Vienna sent a letter to Governor Northam in support of a transition to Phase 1 at midnight on May 28th. Furthermore, they requested the Northern Virginia region move to Phase 2 in concert with the rest of the Commonwealth when that date is established, and that services be established for Virginians with mental health diagnoses, particularly veterans, in order to deal with the "stay-at-home" phase. Please visit the reopening website to view the letter.

[Reopening website](#)

Loudoun is Ready



Created by Loudoun Economic Development, Visit Loudoun and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce, “Loudoun Is Ready” unites business owners and boosts consumer confidence as they look to return to the restaurants, shops, wineries, breweries and other businesses that call Loudoun home.

Companies in Loudoun are encouraged to take a pledge that they will meet the latest safety guidelines outlined by the Virginia Department of Health and Centers for Disease Prevention and Control. Participating companies will range from restaurants, farms and craft beverage providers to offices, gyms, hotels and any other business that serves residents and visitors.

Participants will be offered a digital toolkit and a Loudoun Is Ready sticker to display in their business’ window, as well as be listed on the Loudoun Is Ready website. The red and gold logo will also be available as a campaign button for Loudoun’s workforce and be placed on floor stickers for businesses to mark where customers can safely stand six feet apart.

The campaign, which can be followed through #LoudounIsReady, will also include a “We Are Ready” video featuring local business owners. The video will be displayed on all three organizations’ websites and used in marketing, particularly to residents, meeting planners, visitors and sports teams looking to come to Loudoun.

[Loudoun Is Ready website](#)

CARES Act Funding

The County will receive \$36 million in CARES Act funding from the Commonwealth as a one-time payment for assistance with our response to COVID-19. Of this amount, \$6,081,862 will be distributed to the towns based on population (Leesburg will be allocated \$4,797,036), leaving \$29,997,734 available for use by the county. The funds are subject to the federal conditions established in the CARES Act. Any unused funds must be returned.

At the May 19th Board business meeting we agreed to fund two more rounds of the Business Interruption Fund to support Loudoun businesses. Round Two will deliver grants to the approximately 475 businesses that were eligible in Round One but didn't get selected (\$3.7 million). Round Three (\$2 million) will be used for businesses under 3 employees, which were excluded from the first process. The Business Interruption Fund for Round Three applicants will open at noon on June 3rd and remain open for 72 hours, closing at noon on June 6th. Please visit the website for more details and to sign up for a reminder e-mail.

Round Three Grant

Below is the breakdown of how the CARES Act funds will be spent:

Item	Estimated Amount
Business Interruption Fund	\$6,850,000
Towns	\$6,081,862
Personal Protective Equipment	\$9,500,000
Personal Costs (public health and safety employees)	\$4,500,000
Nonprofit Support	\$2,000,000
Emergency Housing Assistance	\$2,000,000
Network Infrastructure, Licensing and Equipment	\$1,500,000
Life Sustaining Services	\$1,000,000
MHSADS contracts	\$800,000
Expanded and specialized cleaning and supplies	\$700,000
Emergency Food Assistance	\$600,000
Facility and workspace modification	\$547,734
TOTAL	\$36,079,596

COVID-19 Testing

Loudoun County has scheduled a second round of free, drive-through testing for COVID-19 at Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park in Leesburg, Monday, June 1st beginning at 10:00 am. Testing will end when the site reaches capacity or by 6:00 pm. On May 20th, more than 1,800 individuals received a COVID-19 test.

The event is open to all and will occur rain or shine. No appointments are necessary. There are no age or residency requirements. A person does not have to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 in order to be tested. No prescription or doctor's order is necessary. The test type will be a PCR test for the novel coronavirus; the test does not indicate whether an individual has antibodies from a previous COVID-19 exposure. Test results will be provided approximately three days following the test.

Motorists should enter Bolen Park on Crosstrail Boulevard from Sycolin Road. Please use the following address in your GPS to arrive at the park's general location: 42405 Claudia

Drive, Leesburg. Plan on long wait times, which may be 2 hours or more; restrooms will be available periodically throughout the waiting line.

To help reduce wait times, people who plan to attend Monday's event are strongly encouraged to complete a registration form for each person who will be receiving a test prior to arriving at the testing site. The registration form is required and asks for general demographics and contact information including name, date of birth, address, phone number and current symptoms, if any.

Registration Form

Face Mask

Governor Northam signed an executive order on Tuesday requiring Virginians to wear face coverings in public indoor settings to help contain the spread of COVID-19. As more people venture back to businesses, employees are put in a vulnerable position when patrons come in without a face covering. This order will help make sure workers are safe as they interact with customers. It is effective on Friday, May 29th.

Executive Order

I hope everyone had a nice Memorial Day. Thank you to our men and women in uniform.

Warm Regards,

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Business of the Month

King Street Coffee

On the corner of Royal and King St. sits a blue house that has been the coffee hub of Downtown Leesburg for 30 years. We're not your commercial coffee shop. Our baristas are coffee enthusiasts who urge you to challenge your palette by trying something new. You can now order 1/2 gallons of cold brew and iced lattes through our website! We will customize them for you and deliver them so that you can make your favorite king street coffee drinks at home. Just go to our **website** and click the Cold Brew/Lattes tab to submit an order form (or the Ship Me Coffee tab to order bags of beans!) - happy sipping!



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

The Town of Leesburg held its annual Memorial Day Observance, Monday, May 25th on the Loudoun County Courthouse grounds in downtown Leesburg. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held privately while appearing live on the Town's Facebook page. I was joined by Leesburg Town Councilman Neil Steinberg as well as Phil Rusciolelli and Ray Delpesche of Leesburg VFW Post #1177 (pictured below). This annual observance commemorates those who have lost their lives in battle, serving the United States, as well as recognize the brave military men and women who serve our country.



The Town of Leesburg's annual 4th of July celebration, including the parade, the concert at Ida Lee Park, and the fireworks display, has been canceled due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. "In order to hold our 4th of July celebration, we would need to be in Phase 3 of Governor Northam's Forward Virginia plan for relaxing the public health restrictions," said Leesburg Town Manager Kaj Dentler. "Even if we enter Phase 1 next week, it is unlikely we will be in Phase 3 by early July. Given the planning and commitments to vendors and performers, that need to be made now, we have made the decision to cancel. We are disappointed, but feel that it is in the best interest of the health and safety of our community."

A reminder that the Leesburg Town Council has delayed the due date for payment of 1st quarter transient occupancy taxes and meals and beverage taxes by 30 days. Businesses have an additional 60 days to pay with no penalty. In addition, the council pushed the due date for annual business license renewals to July 20th. Please remember to support our local businesses, many of which will reopen beginning this Friday. While a number of requirements will be put in place, your support will be uplifting. Customers will still be able to take advantage of curbside pickup and delivery, as well. Please check with individual businesses to learn more about their protocols.

West Market Street, between Ayr Street and Morven Park Road, is currently closed for construction of the West Market Street sidewalk project. Approximately 0.2 miles of sidewalk is being replaced along the north side of West Market Street, between Morven Park Road and Ayr Street, with brick sidewalks that will be in compliance with ADA regulations and constructed to provide a safer walking environment. The closure is expected to run through August 24th. For more details regarding this project, visit the link below.

[West Market Street Sidewalk](#)



Update from Beth Barts

The school board reconciled the budget on May 26th. Full Time Parent Liaisons for Title 1 eligible schools were kept in the budget along with additional positions for special education and mental health. Equity continued to be a focus with new supervisor positions being funded along with equity leads for each school.

Graduation plans are being finalized. Each school will have a virtual celebration but in addition each senior will have an in person graduation to be held during the month of June at their respective high schools.

Stakeholder panels and focus groups are meeting daily preparing various scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year. There are three potential scenarios:

1. To reopen schools without physical distancing or other public health mitigation strategies.
2. To reopen schools with physical distancing and /or other health mitigation strategies.
3. An extension of distance learning.

Please note: The option to only use distance learning for the 2020-2021 school year will be offered to families. A decision as to which scenario LCPS will start the 2020-21 school year with, will be made by the end of July. This decision will be based on state and VDOE guidance.

Community Information



Blood Drives:

LCPS has partnered with the American Red Cross who reported that donor expectations were exceeded at three April Drives at LCPS schools. Mr. Steven Bratland, Red Cross Account Manager/Donor Recruitment, confirmed from these donation events 69 units were collected from 82 donors, 26 of which were first time donors. Mr. Bratland advised the donations from the three drives have the potential of saving up to 207 lives. The schools' space accommodation permits the required social distancing during the collection events at this extremely critical time. No drop-in donations are allowed. To schedule an appointment, please visit the website below. Additional Blood Drives will be held at:

- Stone Bridge High School / June 9, 2020
- John Champe High School / June 15, 2020
- Loudoun County High School / June 26, 2020
- Loudoun County High School / July 11, 2020
- Stone Bridge High School / July 22, 2020
- Loudoun County High School / July 29, 2020
- Loudoun County High School / August 1, 2020

[Blood Drive website](#)

Loudoun County's Spring Farm Tour Goes Virtual: The Loudoun Spring Farm Tour is an annual tradition dating back to 1993, designed to connect farmers and consumers at the start of the growing season. Loudoun Economic Development has re-imagined the tour in a virtual format and will launch the interactive map this weekend with 14 farms. The virtual farm tour is scheduled to go live at 10 am on Saturday morning. For the best touring experience, please access it on a desktop device at the link below.

[Virtual Spring Farm Tour website](#)

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